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#### Recommended Citation

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations, "Students, public invited to attend GIS day events at UM" (1999). *University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present*. 16290.  
<https://scholarworks.umt.edu/newsreleases/16290>

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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Oct. 29, 1999

**Contact:** Lauren Mackay, communications director, EOS Education Project, (406) 243-6703.

### **STUDENTS, PUBLIC INVITED TO ATTEND GIS DAY EVENTS AT UM**

#### **MISSOULA —**

Missoula junior high and high school students are invited to learn about geographic information systems, satellite mapping and more during GIS Day on Friday, Nov. 19, at The University of Montana.

Organized by UM's Earth Observing System Education Project, GIS Day begins with a student GIS workshop starting at the top of each hour from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Registration is filling up, so interested teachers should make arrangements soon by calling 243-6703 or e-mailing [lmackay@selway.umt.edu](mailto:lmackay@selway.umt.edu). If transportation is a problem, buses are available upon request.

Late afternoon sessions are free and open to the public, taking place on the main floor of the James E. Todd Building, which is attached to the east side of the University Center.

Sessions are:

- Medical applications of GIS, 4 p.m.
- Banking applications of GIS, 5 p.m.
- General applications of GIS, 6 p.m., presented by Bryant Ralston of ESRI Inc., a Redlands, Calif.-based GIS and mapping software company.
- Showcase of various applications of GIS by ESRI partners and other GIS users in the business community, 6:30 to 8 p.m.

-more-



“We are very excited about hosting a GIS Day open house,” said Alex Philp, EOS Education Project assistant director. “Throughout the day we will be introducing hands-on GIS to middle and high school students across Missoula. Simultaneously, the students will learn how GIS is employed across multiple public- and private-sector arenas in their community. Then in the evening, a public night will be filled with poster presentations demonstrating the benefits of GIS in dozens of fields – from medicine to resource management.”

Presenters will include representatives from Missoula County, the City of Missoula, UM’s geography department and the U.S. Forest Service, as well as Steve Running with UM’s Numerical Terradynamic Simulation Group.

GIS is a computer-based tool for mapping and analyzing objects and events. It combines the power of a database with the visualization capabilities offered by maps. Businesses, schools, governments and organizations use GIS for a wide variety of applications, as GIS provides innovative ways to solve complicated problems, experiment with scenarios and present ideas.

GIS Day will be held on the last day of Geography Awareness Week, Nov. 15-19, and is sponsored by the National Geographic Society and the American Society of Geographers. The week has been held since 1987 to promote geographic literacy in schools, communities and organizations.

The EOS Education Project is a NASA-funded department formed at UM to disseminate Earth system imagery and supportive curricula to the global educational community. The department works to support educator and student understanding of complex global ecosystems and the role humans play in affecting these systems.

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